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Near East & South Asia

IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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IRAN:

Majles Sessions

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CONTENTS

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions 1
24 Jul *[25 Jul]* 1
27 Jul *[28 Jul]* 5
3 Aug *[4 Aug]* 11

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

24 Jul

94LA0234A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jul 94 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from the cities of Tafresh and Ashtian, Saqqez and Baneh, Iranshahr and Marvdasht gave preagenda speeches. Then the speaker of the Majles gave a speech condemning the crimes of the hypocrites and the support for them by the Western nations, which was printed in the previous issue of the newspaper. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our respected readers to the detailed proceedings.

'Ali Danesh-Monfared, Deputy From Tafresh and Ashtian

In the Islamic system of government, a minimum income for a life with dignity must be provided for individual people.

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Danesh-Monfared, deputy from Tafresh. In his speech he said the greatest achievement of the Islamic revolution is the Constitution. He said: Adhering to the Constitution and implementing its principles is one of the most important responsibilities of the nation's three powers and its management. Only in this way can justice, fairness, political, economic, social and cultural independence, and national solidarity be obtained. Setting the Constitution aside or implementing half its articles will damage both the revolution and the country.

He added: It appears that most of the nation's current problems and malfunctions are due to the failure on the part of the officials in the nation's three powers to implement the Constitution fully and properly to achieve release from the difficult current circumstances. I say that an important part of that is due to pressure and attacks by the foreign enemy, but at the same time, a major part of the problems is due to the failure to adhere to the Constitution and the failure to deal with lawbreakers inside the country. To deliver ourselves from the existing difficult circumstances, it is necessary, based on the Constitution, that measures be taken quickly in three important basic areas.

The deputy from Tafresh said that what is disturbing our nation and making it severely unhappy is the lack of social and economic justice. He said: Before it is too late, we must act courageously to achieve justice in all areas, which is one of the most important principles and the essence of the Constitution. The abundant abuses of positions of employment to achieve economic benefits and to acquire special social benefits by individuals in power or their affiliates have blocked the path to fairness and social justice, and in various dimensions have even removed the sense that corruption is indecent.

He also explained: Based on Article 49 of the Constitution, unexplained wealth, which weakens the roots of fairness and justice in the country and often brings about a feeling in individuals of weaknesses, hopelessness, and indifference towards the Islamic revolution and its exalted values, must be carefully investigated.

He discussed the need to strengthen the nation's management. He said: According to the Koran, social responsibilities are elements of divine faith, and they must be conveyed to those who have that faith in conditions where attention has not been given to this principle as it can be and should be. Most of the nation's problems arise from the failure to adhere to this basic principle.

With regard to social participation, he also said: The Constitution has made the government responsible for providing all social and political freedoms within the limits of the law and for permitting the people to participate in determining their own destiny. The failure to observe these principles from the Constitution draws the people into indifference, passivity, and even rebellion and opposition to the government. As long as the views and political activities of the people, whether expressed as group or individual activity, are within the framework of the Constitution, it is in the interest of the country that the government and the nation's management pay the necessary price for these kinds of views and activities. Onesided political views and factionalism, which will ultimately lead to economic, social and cultural monopoly, do irreparable damage to national solidarity.

Under such circumstances the interest of society is forgotten and is replaced by individual and factional interests. Under such circumstances, it is necessary for the concerned and toiling officials of the government of the Islamic Republic to pay attention to the following:

1 - In view of the existing inflation in society and the policy of economic adjustment, it is necessary that serious attention be given to the livelihoods of society's wage earners and those with fixed incomes, because if the answer from the policy of economic adjustment is that adjustments must be made in every area, than the wages of individuals must be appropriately adjusted.

2 - In the Islamic system of government, a minimum income for a life with dignity must be provided for individual people.

3 - One of the nation's current necessities is to give responsibility to managers who are worthy, skilled, pious, and concerned, and to reject flatterers, opportunists, and people with their fingers to the wind. The failure to do this will cause public dissatisfaction and damage the entire system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4 - Conditions must be created for attracting small investments and for hiring believing manpower, and for eliminating from the nation's economic affairs those elements who are without faith, monopolists and impostors.

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In conclusion, Danesh-Monfared thanked the minister of the interior for visiting his electoral district, and he asked the minister of energy for help creating a water transfer network in Tafresh and Ashtian, the minister of higher education for help completing the Professor Hesabi University Project in Tafresh, and the minister of the reconstruction jihad for help asphalting the rural roads in Tafresh.

Nur Mohammad Robusheh, Deputy From Iranshahr

The public revenue that comes from national resources and wealth belongs to all the people, and everyone must benefit from it justly and appropriately.

The next speaker at yesterday's session was Robusheh, deputy from Iranshahr. During his speech he discussed the study of the Second Five-Year Plan in the Majles, and the precise implementation of the commands from the Imam (peace be upon him) and the exalted leader in approving the Second Five-Year Plan. He said:

The government must try to create justice in all areas. The gaps that have developed between the nation's different regions in various economic, cultural, and development areas and in the standard of living with regard to access to social and welfare services are so great that it will be quite difficult or impossible to overcome them.

In this regard he added: The public revenue that comes from national resources and wealth belongs to all the people. All the people in the country in its various regions must benefit from it justly and appropriately. Unfortunately, this defect is completely obvious in the First Five-Year Plan.

Continuing, the speaker said: A nation's primary wealth is its manpower. With its cultural plots, imperialism, led by America, has tried to destroy the spirit of faith, sacrifice, and martyrdom among Muslims. Measures must be taken so that those in charge of education and training will thwart the enemy's plots by building believing, committed and specialist manpower with sufficient credits. In this work the role of the clergy is very basic and useful, and the Majles must make the necessary credits for this available to those in charge of education.

Continuing, Robusheh discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: My electoral district, with 45,000 square km, is the nation's largest municipality. Its temperatures in excess of 47 degrees, its very heavy storms at various times in the year and its hail and floods threaten the assets and lives of many people. The last flood took the lives of about 20 people, and something must be done to stop this.

The deputy from Iranshahr said that in an interview he gave on 20 Tir [11 July], he told officials the extent of the damages. He said: Unfortunately, so far no basic steps have been taken. The Red Crescent has only given deficient preliminary aid, and Mr. Zargar has seen some of the areas from a helicopter.

The speaker added: During the recess when I was in my electoral district, I visited all the districts. I myself and several judges and local officials were endangered just last night by a flood on the Sarbaz River. I saw how the people are living and was affected very much.

He noted that measures must be taken so that all lawful reparations can be paid to those who have suffered losses. He mentioned some of the damages in his electoral district, as follows:

Destruction of some 3,000 km of connective roads in various districts, the destruction of 80 percent of the canals, the destruction of date trees, thousands of head of cattle, sheep and camels killed, and other things.

Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, Deputy From Saqqez And Baneh

The next speaker was Partovi, deputy from Saqqez and Baneh. In a short speech he said: A weak and diffuse speech by someone named Rashidpur was published in the newspaper ETTELA'AT, which was quite painful for the hearts of Muslims. How can we describe that accusation? Was it quarrelsome, contentious, a drawing of battle lines, ethnic quarreling, intellectual contentiousness or political fighting? Whatever it was, it was a shameless enemy plot, whose quarrel is not with a faction but with Islam. His speech was not knowledge, it was simple ignorance.

He added: In violation of the commands of Islam, he is trying to sow discord among Muslims, and the result will be nothing but a disturbance. He is an enemy of the goal of 'Ali (peace be upon him).

Continuing, he mentioned the statement by the Imam (peace be upon him) that in the Islamic Republic, Shiites and Sunnis are together and brothers. They are equal before the law and anyone who promotes anything to the contrary is an enemy of Iran and Islam. He said: Unfortunately, in an age when Muslims are returning to their rightful greatness and glory and at a time when our enemies are weakened and silenced by the unity of Muslims, they rudely cut into the firm rope of Islamic brotherhood with the knife of discord. Some people are trying to destroy common national values and to separate the Sunnis from the sacred Islamic revolution of Iran, some by destroying mosques, some by bombing, and some by writing and being rude to the Sunnis on the pretext of strengthening the family.

At the end of his speech, Partovi added: While we condemn these actions, we ask the relevant officials to pursue this matter.

Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, Deputy From Tehran

In the Second Five-Year Plan we expect to see a sufficient and necessary balance observed between the nation's overall economy and its micro economy.

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The next speaker was Raja'i-Khorasani, deputy from Tehran. During his speech he said: Our country, Iran, is one of the world's old and ancient countries. In times when many of today's civilizations lived in primitive conditions without any political or cultural customs and traditions, Iranians had good culture, art, management practices and nation-keeping skills.

He added: There is no doubt that one of the world's ancient civilizations was established in our land by our Aryan ancestors. The artistic monuments from the time of the Medes and the Achaemenids, and the beautiful handicrafts they left show the advanced creativity and skill of our ancestors. The achievements of ancient Iranian culture include metal work, architecture, cooking, painting, calligraphy, weapons manufacture, and most important of all, the idea of establishing a central government and running a country with coordinated management and unified command.

Continuing, Raja'i-Khorasani said: Pre-Islamic Iranian rulers were not immune from error in their personal or political lives, but the management of a vast country was possible only by thoughtful and wise men. It is therefore ungrateful and unfair to exaggerate their mistakes and ignore their political and cultural achievements. What is said in the university textbooks about Iran's history, whether before or after Islam, is about impulsive debauchery, incompetence, and the imprudence and the elitism of the rulers and shahs of the past.

The deputy from Tehran noted that the black deeds of the Pahlavi dynasty have convinced the writers of our textbooks that all the practices of the kings of this land are reprehensible and show values that are not correct. He said: The historians and writers of the nations of the world's awakening nations are working very hard to find historical and cultural roots for themselves, because they consider national identity and cultural pride to be requirements for the self-confidence of current generations. We, however, with our bright and proud past, have no reason to ignore our proud political, military, and cultural history because of the black deeds of the Pahlavi dynasty.

The speaker then expressed the hope that in the Second Five-Year Plan educational officials will give attention to revising the textbooks, especially in the preuniversity history programs.

With regard to foreign policy, he said: After the triumph of the Islamic revolution and especially the imposed war, our foreign policy had a special direction. Our representatives outside the country concentrated their efforts mostly on developing political relations, exchanging political and cultural delegations, and discussing the oppression and crimes against our people during the imposed war. In the period of reconstruction, the inclinations and activities of our representatives outside the country must change as appropriate for the nation's development programs and must be aimed at its economic development.

Continuing, Raja'i-Khorasani added: All the deputies usually have the privilege of rightly mentioning the name of Mr. Hashemi in their speeches when they mention economic successes and the implementation of the nation's important industrial and development projects, but sometimes we also hear in their speeches complaints about the high prices and the economic pressures that are being visited on some of the people. Both of these are true.

In the same regard, the deputy from Tehran added: The government is talking about the major economic programs and development projects, which have been implemented in the country, but the people do not organize their daily lives with the overall economy. This is done mostly based on the micro economy that the ladies keeping house use to run their kitchen programs. Therefore, in the Second Five-Year Plan we must expect to see a sufficient and necessary balance observed between the nation's overall economy and its micro economy.

He then added: In this period, our economic programs must be aimed mostly at creating employment, controlling prices and increasing production, they must be such that the economic pressures on the low-income classes are reduced, and they must make the people happy.

Among the very important issues in economic reconstruction in this phase of the country's history, and it has fateful importance, is reform of the nation's administrative system.

At the end of his speech, the deputy from Tehran said: If we want the people properly to observe the system's values and our ethical, traditional and Islamic criteria, we must be assured that the people are completely satisfied with the work of the executive officers and the officials, and they must be proud of their work in some way, and this must occur along with correct management.

Jalil Rashidi, Deputy From Marvdasht

If priority is given in the Second Five-Year Plan to rural development, conversion industries and agriculture, we will see striking successes.

The final preagenda speaker was Rashidi. During his speech he said: The Majles deputies are working on the very urgent Motion To Transfer Government Shares to Factories, Government Companies and Companies Affiliated With the Government to Those Who Have Sacrificed. This project is intended to create conditions for economic activity and involvement by basijis and those who have sacrificed, after the striking successes they have achieved in political affairs and in the war. It was prepared as a matter of necessity by a number of combative and sacrificing deputies in the Fourth Majles, and was signed by more than 60 deputies. Clearly it will bring about great change in the industrial and economic sectors, for now the depth of those successes is concealed.

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He mentioned the striking academic successes of Iranian students in international competition. He said: The achievement of fourth, fifth, and sixth place in mathematics, physics, chemistry and computers, and also international second place in memorizing and reading the Koran by the participating students, was not a matter of chance.

It is worthy and necessary that the media and the government praise and discuss these successes.

At the end of his speech he called upon the government and the Joint Commission to increase supports and subsidies in the agricultural sector beyond the figures in the First Five-Year Plan, for this is an undeniable necessity. The countries that have succeeded in the agricultural sector have given special and separate attention to this matter.

Support that was not that strong and without priorities in the First Five-Year Plan brought about good prosperity and advancement in the nation's agricultural and animal husbandry sectors, in such a way that now we have had good successes in fisheries, dairy products, white and red meat and strategic crops such as wheat. It is clear that if priority is given in the Second Five-Year Plan to rural development, dam construction, capturing water, installations, conversion industries and agricultural machinery, we will see striking progress and successes.

Legislation

The only item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the Motion on Procedures for Transferring Government Shares and Shares Belonging to the Government to Those Who Have Sacrificed and Workers, two more articles of which were approved.

Article 6: Of the transferable shares mentioned in this law, 33 percent will be transferred to the laborers and workers employed in the same unit. If the workers employed at the same unit are unable to buy 33 percent of the shares, the rest of the shares to a ceiling of 33 percent will be transferred to other workers subject to the Labor Law, and laborers and workers in other producing units, with priority going to laborers and workers who have sacrificed, combatants, basijis, the children of martyred workers and invalids, government staff workers, the spouses and children of martyred workers and invalids and the spouses the children of disabled veterans with more than 50 percent disabilities.

Note 1: To each worker, person who has sacrificed, combatant and basiji mentioned in this law a maximum of 2 million rials [R] in shares will be transferred at a price which is the average between the nominal price and the transfer price, and a maximum of R5 million in shares will be transferred at the base expert price, and these prices will be subject to increase as necessary with the approval of the minister of economic and social affairs and the minister of labor and social affairs.

Note 2: The executive measures to transfer the shares mentioned in Article 6 will be the responsibility of the financial organization for expanding the producing unit's assets. Two Majles deputies will be designated by the Labor Commission and the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission and will take part as observers in the council of the aforementioned organization.

Article 7: To supervise the proper implementation of this law and to organize the necessary working relations between the companies owned by those who have sacrificed and the ones transferring the shares, a staff will be formed in the office of the president of the republic with the following composition:

A. A representative of the president of the republic, who will serve as chief of the staff.

B. Representatives from the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of the Reconstruction Jihad, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs.

J. Deputy officers from the Martyr Foundation, a deputy officer from the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans, the vice president of the Former Prisoners of War Staff and the chief of the Command Staff of the Revolutionary Guard of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

D: Representatives from the relevant ministries, as required by the case, will participate in the above meetings with the right to vote.

H. Two Majles deputies, elected by the Majles, will participate in the above meetings as observers.

Note: As needed the Central Staff may form comparable staffs in the provincial centers, chaired by the governors-general and consisting of representatives from the ministries and organizations discussed in Paragraphs B, J, and D above.

Majles Notes

After the preagenda speech by Mr. Partovi, deputy from Saqqez and Baneh, against the remarks by Mr. Rashidpur published in the newspaper ETTELA'AT, the speaker of the Majles said that in the same newspaper Mr. Hojjati-Kermani gave an answer to this article, and compensation was thereby made.

Offices for Selling Factories in Tehran and the Issue of Taxes

Yesterday, in a contact with our parliamentary correspondent, Mr. Sharifi, deputy from Arak, said: Since some of the industrial and producing companies in the cities and other provinces are in Tehran, the tax assessors calculate the taxes of the companies without doing a full overview and based on an estimate, and with this procedure many of the companies avoid paying what is rightfully due to the government. The government loses large sums every year this way. For this reason, based on a note that has been proposed, the sales and financial

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affairs offices of the factories are to be located in the same city as the factory. With the approval of this note, the government will do a better job of collecting its due. It is not acceptable that the various social, cultural, and environmental problems and effects caused by a factory should exist for one city while the relevant taxes and levies are paid in another province.

He added: If this recommendation is approved it will have the following effects: There will be more oversight of the financial affairs offices for collecting the taxes due in the province, and the taxes and levies collected will be spent in each province on development in the same province, while the financial circulation from the companies in the relevant province will strengthen the currency in circulation in the region's banks, and economic prosperity will follow.

27 Jul

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Sardasht and Piranshahr, Meshkinshahr, Tehran, and Urmia spoke as preagenda speakers. Then the speaker of the Majles gave a short speech offering condolences on the occasion of Ascension Day for the martyrs of Karbala and Mashhad. The Majles then took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings.

Majles Speaker's Remarks

Mr. Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Majles, gave a short speech offering condolences on the occasion of Ascension Day for the Prince of Martyrs, His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him), which coincides with Ascension Day for the martyrs of Mashhad and Imam Reza's (peace be upon him) shrine.

The Majles speaker discussed the blind and desperate assassinations by the hypocrites. He said: If these assassinations and bombings were going to make us retreat and shake us, then we never should have made a revolution. Continuing, he said: The pressures, the suffocation, the assassinations, and the crimes of the shah were greater than these, and they did not disturb our nation. Since the triumph of the revolution, just one of the the disasters that have occurred would have been enough to disturb and do violence to a system, yet tens of these grave disasters were imposed on our nation and it stood its ground with greater determination.

Nateq-Nuri then discussed the disaster of 7 Tir [28 June]. He added: Twenty-seven Majles deputies were martyred, but on 9 Tir [30 June] the Majles convened and continued working and debating the bills. The government continued on its way and doing its work. Before long, on 8 Shahrivar [30 August], they engulfed the president of the republic and the prime minister in a vengeful fire, but nothing changed in this country. They imposed an impotence causing war on us, but this steadfast government continued on its way and the nation was undisturbed.

Continuing, the speaker of the Majles thanked the Iranians living abroad, because when the hypocrites were about to hold a demonstration march in Los Angeles, they attacked them and did not permit them to march. He said: The hearts of our people, even the ones living abroad and in America, are with us. Their hearts are with this government and they support this government. We were not there to tell them their duty. They stood up to this minigroup based on their religious, patriotic and national ardor, and they did a very valuable thing.

In conclusion, Nateq-Nuri added: In my view, whenever these people want to come to Iran and ask us to let them study rights, inspect our prisons and ask questions about our rights laws, we must not permit them to do so. We must ask them first to answer our questions. We must first see how they act on human rights in the world. Then we will ask questions, and we will close this door to them until they stop violating human rights in the name of human rights.

Mohammad Karimian, Deputy From Sardasht and Piranshahr

The profiteering leeches are adding to the problems of the people by making the things needed by the public more expensive every day.

The first preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Karimian, deputy from Sardasht and Piranshahr. During his speech he said: The root of all corruption is poverty. Why is it that 15 years after the revolution, there are still people who lie to this nation, ignore the revolution's charter and act on the basis of personal taste? Was it easy to gain the confidence of the people?

Addressing the president of the republic, he then said: The bureaucracy, the unsound administrative environment and the hopes for getting the people's work done increase day by day, and continue to torment the nation of Iran. Assuredly, the main factor, the roots of this unsavory phenomenon, are bribery and embezzlement in the nation's administrative system, the weakness of law and implementation, the failure to deal decisively, the lack of an adequate system for supervising and controlling the actions of the government's managers and workers and existing economic problems. Fighting this demands revolutionary action on the part of the government and the Majles.

In this same regard Karimian added: As before, the profiteering leeches are adding to the problems of the people by making the things needed by the public more expensive every day, and, by their indifference, the officials in charge are going along with them. The Ministry of Commerce, by requiring the application of price stickers and giving various interviews, has made various

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goods become more expensive and confused the issue. This is regrettable and needs reflection and study.

The speaker noted that in the Province of West Azerbaijan alone, there are more than 100,000 unemployed people. He said: Neither the Ministry of Industries, the Ministry of Mines and Metals, the Ministry of Commerce nor the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has taken any effective steps to create employment.

Continuing, Karimian said: Despite the emphatic statements made by the exalted leader and His Holiness based on alleviating deprivation, unfortunately national and province credits have not yet been allocated on the basis of deprivation, while overcharging, discrimination, inequities, injustice and unkindness on the part of the officials in charge still exist.

Continuing, the speaker emphasized the fact that in the province of West Azerbaijan there are managers who have not inspected these two municipalities even one time. He said: What is the problem if the officials perform the Friday prayer with these dear ones at the border once a year at the congregational mosque?

He emphasized the need to reopen the border and establish a border market. Concerning the problems of the region's clergy, he said: The clergy in the Kurdish areas are enduring many hardships and difficulties. They still face numerous problems with finances, housing, social insurance and obligatory public service.

Continuing, he said: The costs to patients at hospitals, especially in the private sector, are so high that 80 percent of the nation of Iran, especially the wage earners and the vulnerable class, are unable to pay hospital costs, and it is simply a mistake for people like this to go to the hospital. They will lose both their lives and their assets. It would be better for them to wait for the Angel of Death. Go to the Naser Khosrow Market and you will see that 600-rial [R] drugs are being sold at R8,000, and drugs that should really be kept in a refrigerator and in special places are in the pockets of the dealers at Naser Khosrow, while the price increases made by the Ministry of Health and the Supreme Economic Council, as always, merely add to the wealth of pharmacy owners.

He said that the physical training program continues to be unsuccessful and he asked the military and police forces to treat the people in an acceptable way.

In conclusion he said: Some people, knowingly or unknowingly, are seeking to disrupt the unity between Sunnis and Shiites by making accusations against the Sunnis about crimes committed here and there in the country, and in reality doing such a thing goes along with Salman Rushdie's thinking.

Ahmad Hemati, Deputy From Meshkin-Shahr

It is hoped that in the Second Five-Year Plan deprivation will be completely eradicated from the face of Iran and that we will have a self-sufficient Iran.

The next speaker was Hemati, deputy from Meshkin-Shahr. During his speech he offered condolences on the occasion of Imam Hoseyn's (peace be upon him) Ascension Day and that of the martyrs of Mashhad's Ashura. He discussed the refugees in Ruwanda and King Hussein's visit with Yitzhak Rabin. He said: I remind the Government of India that it must stop the repeated attacks on sacred sites. I say to the governments of Europe, a place where they support the hypocrite terrorists, to stop making claims about humanitarianism and human rights. They should be ashamed, and not disgrace themselves any further.

He added: I remind the new government in Zambia that it must be in harmony with the people and not be dependent on imperialism. It must liberate its nation from the yoke of imperialism.

Thank God for the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has found its way and is advancing rapidly with reliance on divine power and inspiration from the guidance of the late Imam and the exalted leader, along with the concern and unity of the nation and the government.

He continued: The flourishing of the Voice and Vision organization of the Islamic Republic is palpable for our enemies in every respect. During this short time, despite the fact that it has been attacked by imperialism from every direction, it has acquired even more political, military, developmental and social power.

It is hoped that in the Second Five-Year Plan deprivation will be completely eradicated from the face of Iran and that we will have a self-sufficient and beautiful Iran.

The economic planners, and especially the government and the Majles, with inspiration from the Koran, must take more effective steps in the Second Five-Year Plan to make adjustments and eliminate differences throughout the country. There is no doubt that divine piety requires the achievement of social justice, and justice requires full support for the weak and vulnerable classes. Therefore, this calls for giving satisfaction to the rural people living in the small municipalities, especially in the deprived areas. It calls for stopping their emigration—and Praise God, there has recently been a striking decrease in emigration—to the large prosperous cities, and giving priority to making employment centers and factories.

The conversion and producing industries in the nation's deprived districts must be drawn in the direction of those districts.

Continuing, the deputy from Meshkin-Shahr discussed the problems and issues in his electoral district. He mentioned the need to dam the waters in the existing rivers and he called upon the president of the republic, in view of the promise to create centers for higher education, to alleviate the deprivation that is burdening the people. He asked His Excellency to order that the Free Islamic University be put into operation, in view of the

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preparations that have been made and the conditions that have been created for it.

He thanked the minister of agriculture for creating an orchard research station in Meshkin-Shahr and asked him to order the construction of a silo.

Continuing, Hemati issued memos to the relevant officials concerning road construction in the region's deprived villages, opening a Voice and Vision office in Meshkin-Shahr, creating conversion industries to keep fruit from rotting at the trees, and creating a new district of East Meshkin.

Marzieh Vahid-Dastjerdi, Deputy From Tehran

The nation's research budget, at only four percent [as published] of GNP, is quite inadequate and insignificant.

The third preagenda speaker was Dr. Dastjerdi, deputy from Tehran. During her speech she offered condolences on the martyrdom of the visitors to Imam Reza's (peace be upon him) shrine, and she discussed the Second Five-Year Plan. She said: Based on Islamic fundamentals and the emphasis made by the exalted leader, we consider ourselves obligated to make social justice one of the basic elements of the Five-Year Plan, because today we live in a world where the gap between rich and poor widens every day. In some countries, the top 20 percent of the social pyramid has 45 times the income of the next 20 percent. It is for this reason, and not merely to achieve victory and attain development and progress, but to present a workable Islamic model in the world, that our planners and policymakers must devote their basic attention to the procurement of social justice.

She added: If we study international experiences, we will see that the only way to achieve this justice and guarantee the success of policies is to coordinate and support three elements (1) food, (2) basic education, and (3) health care.

No investment and no kind of structural planning in countries to date has been as fruitful as investing in human beings. The effects of nutrition on the future of the individual and the future structure of society are quite clear and evident. Eighty percent of the brain cells of a human being are formed in the first two years of life, and the growth cycle of these brain cells is a linear cycle.

Continuing her remarks, Ms. Dastjerdi said that the elements of nutrition have great effect on growth. She said: Thus today we see that the nations that have moved along the path of progress and development with basic and long-term planning, have all, since the decade of the 60's, given primary planning and budgeting emphasis in the last 30 years to the three things mentioned previously.

These countries, good examples of which are Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and China, in the last 30 years have not cut food subsidies in order to do infrastructure work and carry out development projects and superficially large tasks, because of the great and basic importance of the food subsidies. Instead they have placed on their agenda the building of excellent, talented and innovative people.

The deputy from Tehran then said that with reliance on elementary education, the necessary and useful raw material for the work at the universities can be provided. She continued: It is a great mistake, and one that is repeated everywhere, merely to build universities and give a few papers as documents to unprepared individuals who do not have the practical ability to apply the instruction.

The need for emphasis on investing in health and health care also becomes completely evident, for a sound mind is in a sound body. To prevent wasting enormous investments in the future in the area of treatment, as much investment as possible must be done on preventive health care. Fortunately, this is being done in our country in the form of a health care and treatment network. Planning and budget work must be done in this area.

She emphasized study and research in the university sector. She said: This must not be forgotten in the Second Five-Year Plan. For the success of a long-term task, investment must definitely be made in the area of research, and the importance of this requires the unification of the country's abilities and resources. For example, according to one of the existing indicators, in the years before the revolution, out of 15 top-ranking nations of the world's 60 developing nations, Iran was ranked 10th for research, yet about a decade later, despite the increase in research expenditures, Iran has been completely removed from the 15 top-ranking nations for research. Therefore, it is entirely appropriate to make effort to regain our prerevolution position. The reason for this is not that those parts of the world have a better research record. The roots of research go deeper in our history.

She added: Currently the magic number for research budgets in the advanced nations is 3 percent of GNP. It is even seen that the growth in research expenditures is more than the growth in GNP in these countries. In Taiwan the research budget increased 15.8 percent from 1980 to 1990, and during the same period it increased 23 percent in South Korea. Today, these kinds of Asian nations spend close to $70,000 per year for every research scholar and engineer, which is two-thirds the amount spent in Japan and half the amount spent in America.

What is interesting in studying these countries is the small amount of research investment by the government compared to the larger amounts invested in the industrial sector, the universities and to an extent the private sector. Industries in these countries take advantage of

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university research and scholarship, and they have established joint university-industrial research centers. We see good examples of these in Taiwan.

She explained: In our Islamic Iran, the center of the world, in view of the importance of providing a sound and appropriate model for growth and development, it is necessary to unify the limited abilities and resources and to prevent the waste of budgets. The nation's research budget, at only 0.4 percent of GNP, is quite inadequate and insignificant. In addition to seriously increasing it, support and investment in the industrial sector for the development of university research and forming a shared industry-university research cell is the solution to this great problem.

In conclusion, Ms. Dastjerdi congratulated the nation's press leaders and the Ettela'at Institute on the publication of ETTELA'AT-E BAYN OL-MELLALI.

Beytollah Ja'fari, Deputy From Urmia

It is our duty, through the achievement of the nation's legitimate rights, to prevent the polytheists and the hypocrites from achieving their goal.

The final preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Ja'fari, deputy from Urmia. During his speech he offered condolences on the Ascension Day of the Martyrs of Karbala and the Prince of Martyrs (peace be upon him). He said: At the deprived Karbala mourning site in Urmia, the prostituted hypocrite elements also created a tragedy this year by bombing the path of Hoseyn's mourners on Asuhra and Tasu'a this year [22-23 March 1994], and I ask the officials responsible to investigate this matter.

He discussed the fact that we have a great responsibility in approving the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: We must not forget that the loud cries of Ashura were also raised to deliver oppressed people from oppression and the extortion of their rights. It is our duty, despite the filthy intentions of the enemy, who wants to get the people out of public affairs, to prevent the polytheists and the hypocrites from achieving their goal. We must do this by achieving the nation's legitimate rights.

Continuing, the speaker offered congratulations on the success of the Olympic academic team in the international competition. He added: Congratulations again to the people of Urmia, one of whose worthy children named Yashar Ganj'ali, after earning first place inside the country in the computer field, was also able to get a bronze medal outside the country. This calls for praise for the worthy teachers, instructors and managers of education and training in West Azerbaijan and in the municipality of Urmia, who have written this proud page.

Ja'fari said that the presence of believing and faithful students on the above teams, who attended with deep religious belief and faith, is better news that the triumph of Islam over world imperialism. He said: The participation by Iranian girl students in the international academic constitution, combining the veil, chastity, piety and purity with abundant knowledge and intelligence, winning with the grace of God a gold medal and a silver for the best girl participating in the international competition, shows that despite the propaganda from the imperialist media, not only is Islam no obstacle to activity and growth in the society of women and girls, it encourages and guides them.

Continuing, he thanked the minister of education and training, Dr. Sepehri and Dr. Rezavi, deputy from Kerman, who played an effective role in the success of these projects. With regard to his electoral district he said: Since West Azerbaijan ranks third in the nation in terms of agricultural ability and water and soil, it is hoped that in the Second Five-Year Development Plan the place for such a province will be determined and designated in the process of giving a central place to agriculture, beginning right now.

Continuing, Ja'fari added: In view of the severe anxiety of the retired staff workers, especially the teachers who have the honor of retirement, I ask the respected Majles for rapid final approval of the bill submitted to the government in this regard.

The deputy from Urmia said: The Foundation for the Oppressed, and especially the Zamzam Company, are expected to make no further problems for the Urmia Canada Dry Beverage Company in obtaining raw materials for its factory in this season of labor and hot weather, so that it can produce more than before and the dear workers can work to increase production with peace of mind.

At the end of his speech the deputy from Urmia issued memos to the Ministry of the Reconstruction Jihad about alleviating the problem of the tribal pastures in the north part of the province of West Azerbaijan, and to the Ministry of Agriculture about guaranteed purchases of orchard crops.

Question From a Number of Deputies to Minister of Post

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the question from a number of deputies to the minister of post, telegraph and telephone concerning increased prices for postal services.

Representing the questioners, Dr. Tavakoli, deputy from Khomein, presented the question. He said: Our question is, what is the reason for increasing the cost of postal services by more than the amount given in Paragraph B, Note 25 of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Law? (His explanations to the Post, Telegraph and Telephone Commission were not satisfactory.)

He then added: We were not and are not opposed to expanding postal services. We were and are in favor of

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expanding these services throughout the country. However, based on our lawful and religious obligation, we saw that it was necessary to deal with this and ask this question. Paragraph J, Note 25 of the government's bill says the following: "Authorization is given in the year 1373 to set time tariffs for the average price of sales, fax and telephone at R20, including R8 in taxes, and R100 for the average price of every postal mail item including R35 in taxes." That is, the average price of a postal mail item could increase from R65 to R100. If R65 could increase to R100, meaning by R35, the average price of a mail item should increase 54 percent.

He then added: Since the postal tariffs were low in the view of the deputies, the Majles agreed that postal tariffs could increase an average of 54 percent.

Dr. Tavakoli said: In the postal system we have six weights. The first weight goes from 0 grams [g] to 20 g. The second weight goes from 20 g to 100 g, the third weight goes from 100 to 250 g, the fourth weight goes from 250 to 500 g, the fifth weight goes from 500 to 1,000 g, and the sixth weight goes from 1,000 to 2,000 g. Of all postal mail items, 90 percent are letters, and 85 to 90 percent of all letters are within the weight range of the first weight.

Our question is, why is it that instead of the prices increasing 54 percent, in some places they increased 200 percent and in some places they increased 100 percent? In intracity letters the price went up from R20 to R60 and in intercity letters they increased from R40 to R120.

Minster of Post, Telegraph and Telephone's Answer

Engineer Gharazi answered the question from the deputies. He said: When we are required to calculate this figure in accordance with international laws and regulations and domestic laws, the change has to do with the first weight (from 0 to 20 g). The Universal Postal Union and the respected government usually determine the first weight for us and leave the rest to our discretion. The first weight has four factors, intracity mail items, intercity mail items, percentage of intercity mail items and percentage of intracity mail items. These four factors are set based on statistics and they use an average price. In order that we would have the right reasoning, I said in the Energy Commission that in previous years they had used this same procedure when they designated the first weight.

We brought this issue before the commission, but the commission's inference was that this had to do with all six weights. When I went to the commission, the members of the commission said Gharazi, that is correct. We voted but our interpretation was that this had to do with all six weights. I saw that if this was really the commission's interpretation according to religious law and if I come and say it has to do with the first weight and if I want to stand by what I say, ultimately there would be a question to the Majles and the Majles would answer. I saw that when I accepted the commission's view, I accepted the Majles view. Therefore, I accepted it.

He then said: The commission also gave attention to this and worked on the matter. Three or four brothers went to the commission and sat and made a table of rate factors for us. Thus the table was changed and we precisely implemented the table that the respected commission proposed.

Gharazi then added: For the first weight, 6 tumans was set as the price for an intracity letter, and the other weights were changed in such a way that R100 would be the average of the six weights. We are now acting on this basis. In order that we ourselves can make the decisions, we are acting on the commission's views.

Dr. Tavakoli's Further Remarks

In his talk he said: When we submitted the question to the commission at the time for submitting questions by deputies and the minister in the commission, the three-person council was formed by the Post and Telegraph Commission, and this council began the study of tariffs.

Concerning the three-person council, he said: They said that unfortunately the average price for each postal mail item was set at R124.24 instead of R100. Of course, they did not include foreign mail items and mail-order items in these calculations, and this was not acceptable to us.

He added: On 2/24/1373 [14 May 1994] in letter 310.28591, the new postal rates were announced by 'Ali Ashraf-Ghafuri, general manager of the Supervisory Office, and the three-person council immediately gave interviews in all the newspapers, with the confidence they had in the minister.

Then we severely criticized the three-person council for decreasing the rates. After studying the matter the three-person council announced that unfortunately the Ministry of Post did not act on the mutual understanding and only lowered prices R6.24. On that date the average price of a mail item was R118, meaning the dear ones in the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone and the respected dear ones, in view of the understanding that was reached in the commission, collected an average of an extra R18 on each postal mail item.

With regard to this, we were obliged to raise the question in the open session. Then after this decision, in accordance with letter 31868 dated 4/8/1373 [29 June 1994] the gentlemen hastened to announce new prices and the three-person council, during the week of the Majles recess, distributed this decision via the media.

Dr. Tavakoli continued: In the change of the second price, unfortunately the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone made no changes. They merely came and lowered the prices so much for the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth weights that they were even lower than the prices of the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]. This is truly unfortunate. Why didn't this ministry lower

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the prices for the first weight, which is needed by the deprived and the oppressed and especially our offices? This caused an extraordinary increase in the government's expenses.

Now my question to the minister is, why are you dealing with the poor and the deprived in this way? As they say, break my head but don't break the prices. Why do you want to retain the bottom rate so that next year you can raise the prices on other mail items based on that same first weight?

Mr. Gharazi, why didn't you implement the law? Why did you increase prices so much? If you are going to raise prices, what can we expect from the capitalists and the comfortably prosperous? Mr. Gharazi, in these four months while you have been collecting this money from the people, what were you doing? Praise God! We thank God that we live in a system where the legislation of our Majles is approved by the Guardian Council and acquires the status of religious law. During these four months, did you not, by the standards of secular and religious law, collect an average excess of almost R3.4 billion from the people? What are you going to do with this money?

You will certainly answer that you intend to provide more complete postal services and serve the people. It is not a bad thing if I read for the deputies and the people a letter that was lost for 43 days in the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone. At a time when the telephone question was being raised and we were asking why the rate for a telephone pulse increased from the base of 10 to 12, in studies we did we saw that unfortunately the dear ones in this ministry had increased the rate for moving and transferring a telephone from 500 tumans to 5,500 tumans, or 11 times the former price. They were pressured and it was arranged that they lower the price, but these gentlemen did not accept this until the telephone question was brought to the floor of the Majles by Mr. Sharifi. Unfortunately, one-half hour before the question was read by Mr. Sharifi, they brought a letter saying they had cancelled the 5,500 tuman price and restored it to 500 tumans.

Unfortunately, after 43 days, we saw that this letter was not implemented. After I had a harsh encounter with the deputy minister for parliamentary affairs, they immediately circulated this letter. Mr. Minister, why was a letter that was to cause price reductions lost in the ministry for 43 days, while letters to increase prices were immediately made public within a few seconds and an hour and the money collected?

He answered: We must not compare our country with European and advanced countries. Iran's annual per-capita income is $182 per year, while this income in Europe is $4,000.

Minister's Further Remarks

Engineer Gharazi then answered: Who is in charge of enforcing pricing? The entire board of directors of the Post Company worked with officials from the Plan and Budget Organization for five years based on the idea that prices were not meeting needs. If the Majles approves giving the postal service to a company, when the Post Company wants to change a price, that company's board of directors proposes this to its general assembly. The general assembly studies the proposal with the Plan and Budget Organization and the minister of financial affairs, and after approval in the assembly and approval by the Economic Council, it announces the change.

He said: This price increase was approved in the Majles. On about 27 Esfand [17 March] the Majles announced to us that we could publicize the same table that was approved by the board of directors and the general assembly. I am the liaison between the ministry and the government. I do not set prices. When our city postal rate was R20 and our intercity postal rate was R40, our average rate was R65.

After all this debate and dispute, we then announced that the rate for the other weights would be the same as the year 1372 and for some of the weights it would be less than the year 1372.

It is worth mentioning that after the new answer from the minister, the questioners were not satisfied and the question was referred to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission.

Legislation

Approval of More Articles From the Motion To Transfer Government Shares to Workers and Those Who Have Sacrificed

The second item on the Majles agenda was continued consideration of the Motion on Procedures for Transferring Government Shares and Shares Belonging to the Government to Workers and Those Who Have Sacrificed, for which articles were approved by the deputies.

Article 8: The government is required to pay the banking facilities needed to buy the shares of the factories and companies mentioned in this law to those who have sacrificed, the basijis and the combatants, with minimum banking fees.

Article 9: The government is required to deposit all the revenues from the sales of the shares belonging to the government in the factories and companies mentioned in this law into a special account with the General Treasury and to spend 100 percent of it as follows:

1. Forty percent of the revenues derived from the implementation of this law must be allocated to repay the government's debts for gifts to those who have sacrificed, the Worker Foundation, the National Retirement Organization Fund, the Social Security Organization Fund and also on semicomplete and new employment-creating production projects in cities with populations of fewer than 50,000.

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2. One hundred percent of the revenues derived from the implementation of this bill must be allocated to the relevant provinces *in proportion to the* coefficient of deprived areas in each province set by the National Deprived Regions Affairs Office, to be spent by the governments in the deprived areas on regional expansion and development investments and on new employment-creating production projects (agricultural conversion industries, livestock affairs, mining and rural and handicraft industries).

Note: The procedure for distributing and spending the credits given in Paragraphs 1 and 2 in this article will be based on guidelines to be prepared within two months by the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs in cooperation with the Plan and Budget Organization and the National Deprived Regions Office. The guidelines will be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 10: The guidelines for this law will be prepared within one month by the minister of economic and financial affairs, in cooperation with the other organizations which belong to the staff mentioned in paragraphs B, J, D and H of Article 7 in this Law, and will be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 11: From the date of this law's enactment until the approval of the relevant executive guidelines and their publication for implementation, the government is required to stop the transactions mentioned in this law, at whatever stage they are in.

Note: Transactions for which at least 20 percent or all of the price has been paid in cash by the buyer by the time this law is approved are exempt from this article.

Appended Article: The Shahed Investment Company is exempt from the provisions of Paragraph J, Article 2 of this law, and it may make use of the benefits in this law once for every thousand people who have sacrificed (children of martyrs).

Appended Article: At the time they transfer their companies and factories, the foundations and bodies of the Islamic revolution (the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans, the Martyr Foundation, the 15 Khordad Foundation, the Imam's Aid Committee, the Islamic Propaganda Office and the Islamic Propaganda Organization, with the permission of the vice regent) are required to act within the framework of this law.

Majles Notes

Some Organizations Are Producing Publications Without Authorization

The Printing and Publishing Commission met on Tuesday, attended by a representative of the minister of guidance, the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs and a Majles representative on the Press Commission. Concerning the results of this meeting, Dr. Kamran told our correspondent: Under the law, it is the duty of the Printing and Publishing Commission to investigate violations by government organizations in the printing and publishing of bulletins and publications, but as yet no report has been issued by the Ministry of Guidance on these violations.

He added: Based on studies that have been done, some of the organizations are producing publications without getting authorization from the Printing and Publishing Commission. The auditors in the organizations are required to supervise whether or not a budget has been provided for producing the relevant organization's publications.

Dr. Kamran added: The conclusion was reached from the talks held at this meeting that in the organizations, auditor supervision of the production of bulletins and publications was not substantive. It was decided that the supervision and the implementation of the regulations would be done in earnest.

He emphasized: Under the law, to produce their publications the government organizations must get authorization from this commission, but a number of ministries produced publications without authorization.

3 Aug

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from the cities of Bukan, Tehran, Takestan, Qa'emshahr and Damavand and Firuzkuh spoke as preagenda speakers.

Then the Majles took up its agenda, and we direct the attention of our respected readers to the detailed proceedings.

Ahmad Taha, Deputy From Bukan

The first preagenda speaker was Ahmad Taha, deputy from Bukan. During his speech he asked the president of the republic to visit this municipality, and he listed the malfunctions in his electoral district.

The noted that the municipality of Bukan is known as the grain storehouse of Azerbaijan. He said: The geographic and agricultural benefits and advantages and the advances during the revolution require that the municipality of Bukan become the center of a new Province, which will have a population of at least one million including the neighboring cities.

The deputy from Bukan thanked the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone for its activities in the municipality of Bukan, and he asked the Ministry of Petroleum to expedite the delivery of natural gas to Bukan. He asked the Ministry of Roads and Transportation to study the railroad from Bukan to the Western part of the country and to build an airport. He asked the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to complete the construction of Payam-e Nur University, he asked the Voice and

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Vision organization to reinforce and revive Voice and Vision programming in the Kurdish language, he asked the Ministry of Guidance to establish an academy of Kurdish literature and Kurdish studies and he asked the Ministry of Mines and Metals for quick action to complete exploration and extraction at the Bukan Bauxite mine.

He then discussed the successes of the nation's youth at the International Olympiad. He said: The deprived and the oppressed have nourished the tree of the revolution. Therefore, the deprived and the oppressed must benefit most from its shade and its fruits.

Continuing, the speaker added: I recommend that a special office be established to alleviate cultural, social and political deprivation in order to achieve political and social freedoms within the limits of the law, and to eliminate discrimination.

Monireh Nowbakht, Deputy From Tehran

The first preagenda speaker was Ms. Nowbakht, deputy from Tehran. During her speech she said: Oh God, how quickly and beautifully you have made our sacred land, the secure sanctuary of the vice regency of the chief jurisconsult, bloom from the pure blood of martyrs. As the sunshine of the life of those devoted people from the family of Ashura continues to set, you have made the sunshine of truth shine once again on the people of the world. May any eye that does not see it be blinded.

Continuing her remarks, Ms. Nowbakht named the Majles as an important center for the public's intellectual and psychological security. She said: The Majles, in proper performance, is trying to reinforce public confidence in the government. It is incumbent upon the government and the executive officials to reinforce this confidence more with their own proper performance. In the Second Five-Year Plan special importance must be given to cultural and educational issues, and attention must be given to the problems in the universities and in education and training. We ask the officials in the universities, whether government or nongovernment, to exercise greater care with regard to the problems in the universities and to combine knowledge, politics and religion, and not to hesitate to employ committed forces.

He explained: In the new system of education and training it is necessary for the relevant officials to pay attention to this change from the old system to the new system, so that these changes will take place with a minimum of damage to us.

In conclusion, the deputy from Tehran emphasized the need to strengthen the culture of Islam and to preserve the culture of modesty and chastity.

Rajab Rahmani, Deputy From Takestan

The next speaker was Rahmani, deputy from Takestan. In his speech he offered condolences on the martyrdom of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (peace be upon him) and the death of the Most Respected Prophet (peace be upon him). He thanked the security forces for their persistent efforts in the arrest of Mehdi Nahvi, and he discussed Qazvin becoming a province. He said: Making a province of Qazvin is the precise implementation of the National Divisions Law of 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984]. Qazvin is not the only place involved, for the proposed province is a region with a population of more than 1 million.

Within the municipality of Qazvin are districts more populous than many of the nation's municipalities.

He added: The government has studied the issue from every perspective.

The note below Article 1 of the province law, which states that all the resources in the existing province will be divided between the two provinces proportionate to population, has resolved the financial burden. In terms of population, the existing province of Qazvin is more populous than many of the nation's present provinces, and in terms of area also it has about 3,000 more kilometers than populous provinces such as Gilan, in addition to the fact that 38 independent organizations are now operating within the province.

He added: In the future the new province of Qazvin will absorb the overflow population from Tehran.

Askari Faqih-'Aliabadi, Deputy From Qa'emshahr

The next speaker was Faqih-'Aliabadi, deputy from Qa'emshahr. During his speech he said: Although the plot to eradicate the traces of the Islam of Muhammad in Palestine has entered a new phase with the shameful agreement between the long-time servants of America and Zionism, other manifestations of the Islam of Muhammad in Bosnia, Algeria, the Sudan, Egypt and elsewhere have disturbed their pleasant dream.

The speaker discussed the plot by the hypocrites to bomb the shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him). He said: It is appropriate that we spare no effort to retain our former positions. That means absolutely no relations with the leader of the world's oppressors, America.

Faqih-Aliabadi discussed the process of studying the Second Five-Year Development Plan. He said: The model for development must be based on Islamic values. It appears necessary to change the system for writing the budget, making the budget proportionate to the Islamic revolution, and making basic changes to reform the nation's administrative structure to create a suitable foundation for implementing the Second Five-Year Plan.

The Five-Year Plan must establish just distribution of credits based on indicators such as population, need, deprivation, merit and other criteria. More attention to the First Five-Year Plan and strong support for agricultural growth in the Second Five-Year Plan can be established. The creation of petrochemical, agricultural and

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conversion industries will be a requirement for increasing the production of agricultural crops and converting them to the things the public needs. It is also especially important to pay attention to the quality of lands and the economics of cultivation various agricultural crops.

He continued: The Second Five-Year Development Plan will create conditions for investment participation in such a way that the people will be able to do it.

It is worth mentioning that the speech by Mr. Rasuli-Nejad, deputy from Damavand, was printed on page 14 (the sports page) because of its connection with the nation s current sports issues.

Legislation

Bill To Make Qazvin a Province Not Approved

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the Bill To Make Qazvin a Province.

As the talks by this bill's supporters and opponents continued, Dr. Shibani, deputy from Tehran, gave a speech in opposition to the bill. He said: We have a number of villages and municipalities without water or electricity. Instead of letting them spend their money, we want to give that money to be spent on tables and chairs in the offices of the governor-general and the district governor of Qazvin. They claim that you have not attended to the needs of Qazvin. Then what is the industrial village, which is so huge, and other important installations, the international university, the medical sciences university and other things that are there? You deputies are responsible to God. They will stop you on the other side of the bridge to Paradise. If it is to be based on population, Karaj, with two million people, and the city of Rey should become provinces.

In conclusion Dr. Shibani said: The gentlemen are saying that there is no financial burden for establishing the province of Qazvin. Then they bring an amendment and solve the financial burden. The government made a mistake in approving this. You should not vote for it.

Continuing, 'Ali Akbar Abutorabi spoke in support of this bill. He said: Although France is no more than one-third our size in terms of land area, it is divided into 100 provinces. This is because the abilities and the potential and active talents of a nation demand that it be divided into various provinces.

He then added: In view of the fact that Qazvin is an industrial and agricultural center, these times demand that basic thinking be done concerning Qazvin.

At the same time, of the nine districts in Qazvin, six are considered deprived regions in our country.

Abutorabi also said: It is not a question of us adding tables and chairs. It is not a question of us saying that the size of Qazvin compared to other places requires that it become a province. The issue is that the existing GNP in the area requires independent management.

Then Sharifi, deputy from Arak, spoke in opposition to the bill. He said: We represent the nation and we must think of the interests of the entire nation. Considered from any angle, Qazvin does not have such a special place in the nation's structure that it should become a province.

He then added: When Qazvin becomes a province, 15 or 16 billion tumans will be added to the nation's budget. What will that produce? What do we gain by adding more offices?

What result did you get from making Ardebil a province, which was done last year?

This bill's final supporter was Ahmad Nateq-Nuri. In his speech he said: The people of the Qazvin area really aren't riding the coat tails of the people of Zanjan. There are political problems there and this has caused problems for the government.

He then said: In the former regime they brought an Israeli expert for the Qazvin plain so that agricultural crops could be harvested three times per year. Now we cannot use all those resources. The agricultural divisions are regulated. The province of Qazvin was chosen based on those regulations and there are no legal problems.

Commission Expert's Talk

After the talks by the bill's opponents and supporters, Mr. Naseri, the expert from the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission, spoke concerning this bill. He said: When Qazvin has nothing in common with Zanjan politically, economically, socially or culturally, one must think about it. Based on a Majles measure enacted in the year 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], the Ministry of the Interior established rules for national divisions into 2,150 villages, 135 districts, 36 municipalities and one new province. Didn't these carry a financial burden? It was done because it was the wish of the people.

Minister of Interior's Talk

With regard to this bill, Mr. Besharati, minister of the interior, gave a talk concerning the question of whether or not there has been a good return on making Ardebil a province. He said: We must say that doing this was the reason the good people of Ardebil obeyed the exalted leader's orders not to hit themselves with knives when mourning Imam Hoseyn. According to the statistics we have, 9,000 people in the province of Ardebil hit themselves with knives, but this year, in obedience to emphatic orders from the exalted leader, we did not even have one person hitting himself with a knife.

The minister of the interior made the point that the issue of creating the province of Qazvin is the result of careful work by the Ministry of the Interior's experts. He said: Of course, making Qazvin a province will not end the

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creation of provinces. Anywhere the necessary conditions exist in the nation's various regions, we will study the matter.

After the remarks by the minister of the interior concerning the general form of the Bill To Make Qazvin a Province, a vote was taken. Of a total of 229 votes there were 105 votes in opposition, 103 supporting votes and 21 abstentions, and consequently the Bill To Make Qazvin a Province was rejected.

Dr. Rowhani's Talk After Rejection of Bill To Make Qazvin a Province

Based on this report, Dr. Rowhani said in a speech: I thank all the deputies, especially the deputies from the city of Qazvin and the Domestic Affairs Commission, who have made much effort in these days.

The Majles ultimately voted according to the public interest. The aware, noble and religious people of the municipality of Qazvin are aware of various issues and they know that the rejection of this bill in the Majles does not at all mean that the respected deputies are indifferent to the problems in Qazvin. Rather, the Majles has taken the nation's overall interest into consideration, and did not consider it generally advisable at this time. This does not mean that the municipality of Qazvin will not become a province in the future.

He added: Ultimately there is the chance that in the future the Bill To Make Qazvin a Province will be presented again to the open Majles and studied in another form. Some of the deputies who did not vote were seeking a comprehensive plan for the entire country.

Election of Speaker's Council Supply Officer

The second item on the agenda was the election of one person as the Majles supply officer. Dr. 'Abbaspur-Tehrani, with 130 votes, got the majority vote. The other candidate, Mirvalad, was not able to get a majority.

Motion on Procedures for Transferring Government Shares to Those Who Have Sacrificed

The next item on the agenda was the Motion on Procedures for Transferring Government Shares and Shares Belonging to the Government to Workers and Those Who Have Sacrificed (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the commission's amendment was approved by the Majles.

Text of Amendment to Article 1: The government is required to deposit all the revenues from the sale of shares belonging to the government in the factories and companies mentioned in this law into a special account with the General Treasury, and to spend all the revenues obtained each year to a ceiling of 700 billion rials based on the credits approved in the annual national budget.

Bill on Uniform Payment System for Retirees and Pensioners

The final item on the agenda was the report from the third consultation on the Bill on Uniform Payment System for Retirees and Pensioners, the details of which were approved by the Majles.

According to Article 2 of this law:

Article 2: The wages for retirees and pensioners who are subscribers to the National Retirement Fund and who who have retired, become unable to work or died as of the date of this law's implementation, will be determined as follows:

A: Wages will be set based on the wage tables given in Article 1 of the Government Workers Uniform Payments Law, and overtime will be set in accordance with the current and operable regulations for those employed in the relevant organization.

B: The 3-percent wage increase given for each year of service, for which the standard is a base rate or comparable figure, will become an annual increase.

J: The net average of all wages and employment overtime for the last three years of service, which is determined in implementation of Paragraphs A and B above and adhering to the relevant laws and regulations, is based on the calculation of retirement wages and pensions, provided the retirement wage, disability pension and payments to heirs (total payments to heirs) do not exceed the maximum given in Article 16 of the Government Workers Uniform Payments Law. Two-thirds of the amount in excess of the aforementioned maximum will be payable.

Note 1: The retirement wage, disability pension and payments to heirs for those with judicial base figures who have retired, become disabled or died as of the date of this law's implementation, will be set in coordination with the figures for those subject to Article 14 of the Government Workers Uniform Payments Law and in adherence to the provisions of Paragraph J, Article 2 of this law.

It is worth mentioning that beginning 26 Mordad [17 August] the Majles will take a one-month summer recess. It is necessary to mention that next Monday the Majles will meet in open session for two or three shifts concerning the general form of the Second Five-Year Plan.

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